Turning first to the restriction requirement, it is noted that the pending application includes 40 claims, while only 34 were specifically identified with the two claim groups in the Office Action. Claims 35-40 are apparatus claims, and if the Examiner does not withdraw the restriction requirement as requested herein, it is believed they should be considered with claims 1-15 in claim group I. Applicant elects the claims 1-15 and 35-40 for prosecution, with traverse.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the grounds that searching and examining the entire application can be made without serious burden. A search of the PTO on-line database shows 21 patent classified in both Class 606, subclass 61 and Class 128, subclass 898. A printout of the patents discovered by that search is included herewith. These patents indicate that a single patent can include subject matter classifiable in both classes, and moreover that searching in both classes for one patent occurs and is not burdensome. Indeed, class 606 is by definition an integral part of Class 128, and thus the search for either group of claims would likely consider material in both identified subclasses. It is further noted that Class 128, subclass 898 is a subclass of miscellany, and so it is at least unclear from the subclass definition whether it and Class 606, subclass 61 are in fact substantially different. Thus, per MPEP 803 and 808.02, it is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn and all of the pending claims should be examined together

Turning now to Examiner Priddy's requirement for election as to species, this requirement is also traversed. The Examiner identified six species, corresponding respectively to FIGS. 1-2, FIG. 2A, FIG. 3, FIGS. 4-13, FIGS. 14-15 and FIG. 16. Although the Examiner cites to 35 U.S.C. § 121 to support this election requirement, it is respectfully observed that that section of the Code addresses "independent and distinct inventions," but does not appear to address species. 37 CFR 1.146 provides that if more than a "reasonable number" of species have

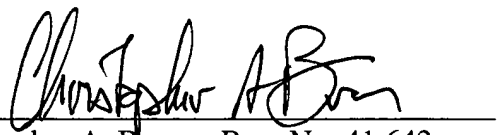
been offered in an application, the examiner may request limitation to a "reasonable number." There is no determination in this Office Action that there are more than a "reasonable number" of species in this application, and it is believed that only a reasonable number are disclosed. Further, the requirement does not appear proper insofar as it requests an election of "a single disclosed species" rather than a "reasonable number," as the rules state.

For completeness of this response, Applicant elects what Examiner Priddy has categorized as species III, relating to FIG. 3 of this application, with traverse. No position is taken at present as to whether any of the pending claims are generic. Applicant reserves the right to take the position that one or more of the pending claims are generic, and/or to offer one or more additional claims that are generic.

The claims in this application are intended by Applicants to be interpreted as the law allows to cover all embodiments within their respective scopes. No limitation of the scope of any claim is intended by any election made in this paper.

In conclusion, the Applicants have traversed the restriction requirement as indicated above while making an election as the rules require, and respectfully request the withdrawal of the requirements and consideration of all claims. An action toward a Notice of Allowance in this case is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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